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The Office of Public Instruction 2005 Legislative Bills

[HB 47 - Full-Time Kindergarten](#) Rep. Kathleen Galvin Halcro

This proposal is to provide full-time ANB funding for kindergarten students enrolled in a full-time public school Kindergarten program. This proposal does not require schools to offer a full-time kindergarten program, but provides full-time funding for those districts that do.

Full-time Kindergarten has been proven to be a vital step in starting children on a successful path to learning. Children who are enrolled in full-day kindergarten programs, in comparison to half-day programs, demonstrate:

- Greater progress in literacy, math and general learning skills
- Significant gains in social and emotional development
- Fewer grade retentions and special education placements
- Higher scores on achievement tests
- Reduced behavioral problems

[HB 111 - Per-Educator Entitlement](#) Rep. Gary Branae

This request is to fund a per-educator entitlement of \$1,000 per certified FTE and other school district professionals. The per-educator entitlement would be established beginning in FY2006 and would be in addition to the basic and per-ANB entitlements that are currently part of the K-12 BASE Aid funding formula. As a school experiences an enrollment decline, the costs of running the school program may decrease slightly if at all, but not by the average cost per-student. The creation of a per-educator entitlement will help stabilize funding for schools, especially those schools that are struggling with the impacts of declining enrollment.

The proposal is to redefine the school district BASE budget to include a per-educator entitlement. The total per-educator entitlement for a district would be equal to \$1,000 per certified FTE and other professionals including nurses, physical therapists, speech language professionals, counselors, occupational therapists, and nutritionists. This same payment would be made to special education cooperatives, the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, and schools run by the Department of Corrections.

[HB 125- K-12 BASE Aid](#) Rep Holly Raser

This proposal is to increase the basic and per-ANB entitlements for inflation. The percentage increases will be calculated using the formula for a CPI adjustment as adopted by the 2003 Legislature in SB 424 and codified in 20-9-326, MCA. In addition

the per-ANB entitlement is increased by \$350 per elementary ANB and \$200 per high school ANB in FY06 and then maintained at this higher level plus inflation in FY07.

[HB 63 - School Finance Revision](#) Rep. Dan Villa

These are clean-up provisions in the school finance laws to ensure that sections of school law are consistent and current.

[HB 83 - State Tuition Payments](#) Rep. Margaret Campbell

This proposal is the amend 20-5-324 to require that tuition for mandatory out-of-district attendance agreements be paid by the state rather than deducted by the county superintendent from the county equalization fund. This will help avoid the overpayments that have been recently documented by OPI. This proposal is revenue neutral.

[HB 162 - Transfer of Immunization Records](#) Rep. Teresa Henry

The provisions for transfers of student records need to be amended to comply with the requirements of NCLB and FERPA for the protection of individual privacy. These protections are extended to students in any private or public school.

[LC 2135 – Revise Appointment Of Surrogate Parents For Special Education](#)

Senator Carol Williams

Bringing Montana statutes into compliance IDEA 2004